

Executive Director's Report – April 20, 2017

Advocacy

Neighborhood Prosecutor Meeting

Rena met with Central and Newton's Neighborhood Prosecutors. They work in City Attorney Mike Feuer's office. We discussed issues that are impacting the Fashion District such as the future of marijuana clinics, homeless encampments and sidewalk access. We will be meeting again to get more involved in any zoning or regulations related to the new laws legalizing marijuana and where shops will be located. Because the Fashion District doesn't have a lot of associations that other neighborhoods have (i.e. churches, schools, daycare centers, etc.) it may become a very attractive venue for these businesses.

Meeting with Assembly Member Miguel Santiago

Rena set up a meeting with Assembly member Santiago to introduce herself to him and discuss the various priorities of the Fashion District. They talked about homelessness and affordable housing as well as funding toward infrastructure improvements for the district. He lives in the Arts District and is very familiar with our neighborhood.

Meeting with LADOT re: San Pedro Safety Project and Streetscape Improvements

Rena met with LADOT to give input into improvements along San Pedro. As part of the City's safety program Vision Zero, San Pedro from Temple Street to 9th Street. Improvements include a installing a center left turn lane, upgrading existing crosswalks, installing a bike lane. We also discussed our strong wish that improvements would be made along 7th Street as well.

Homeless Policy Committee Meeting

Rena attended CCA's Homelessness Policy Committee, members heard from the Office of Mayor Garcetti and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA). The Mayor's office provided the new [protocols](#) related to LAMC 56.11 regarding sidewalks and the storage of personal belongings. The new protocols will be enforced by Hope Teams and managed by the City's Bureau of Sanitation. The Hope Teams are comprised of a Los Angeles Police Department officer, sanitation worker and representative from LAHSA. They are trained to provide outreach and offer services. The teams will be deployed based on service requests to 311.

We also learned about the new [protocols](#) related to vehicle dwelling. These protocols will sunset on June 30, 2018, as the City hopes to have more permanent housing and designated safe parking programs available. Lastly, the committee discussed storage facilities for homeless individuals' belongings across the city. Currently, the only facility is in Skid Row. Thanks to the passage of Proposition HHH, the City now has the resources to fund these facilities but needs development partners. The City has released a RFP

LAHSA provided an update on the existing San Julian Center Drop-in Center in Skid Row. The center will be renovated into a 30-40 bed crisis center for homeless adults with severe mental

illness and drug addiction. It will be a place where high-acuity homeless individuals can stay while permanent housing is being identified. LAHSA also shared the progress that has been made over the last year in increasing outreach teams, transitioning shelters to 24 hour a day operations, refining the Coordinated Entry System and fully staffing up now that resources are available.

Meeting with City Attorney Mike Feuer

Rena attended CCA's Executive Committee and heard City Attorney Mike Feuer. Feuer candidly shared his views on the Trump Administration's recent actions regarding the travel ban, provided a good overview about Special Order 40, and what the term "sanctuary city" actually means. Feuer strongly supports local law enforcement and believes Los Angeles is a safer city when law enforcement can work with the immigrant community without the fear of deportation. Special Order 40 codifies that LAPD officers will not initiate a contact to inquire about immigration status. This has been a standing policy for four decades. Feuer stated if the Trump administration withholds federal funding from Los Angeles based on Special Order 40, he is ready to litigate.

City Attorney Feuer called homelessness one of the most difficult issues since there are "legitimate conflicting interests." His office is playing a significant role by establishing homeless courts and appointing a contact person within his office. The mobile homeless court is being funded by a County of L.A. grant and allows homeless individuals to do community service instead of paying for a citation. This program serviced 1,300 people in its first year.

In addition, Feuer told the audience about a new program he is launching that will encourage existing motels to convert to housing for homelessness. He stated existing motels are good opportunities because they are already built and in many neighborhoods throughout the city. Motel owners should consider this opportunity because the city will provide a secure source of rental income and funds for capital improvements which can be viewed [here](#).

Meeting with Deputy Chief Arcos

Deputy Chief Arcos shared the real challenges LAPD officers face when working with homeless individuals and how the SMART, RESET and HOPE teams are helpful. These are multi-disciplinary teams that have experts on engaging mentally ill and substance-addicted people. The teams also have benefit experts who can assist homeless individuals get connected to housing, services and other resources. Some teams also have representatives from the City of Los Angeles Sanitation Department to assist with bulky items and encampments, as well as enforcement actions for blocked entrances and exits. The Clean and Safe Teams have been working with Sanitation in cleaning up the alleys in the district.

DTLA 2040- CCA Committee Meeting

Rena, Board members Chatoff and Levy and stakeholders Taban and Yamabee are working with the CCA DTLA 2040 Committee to address the proposed changes to the Community Plan and to